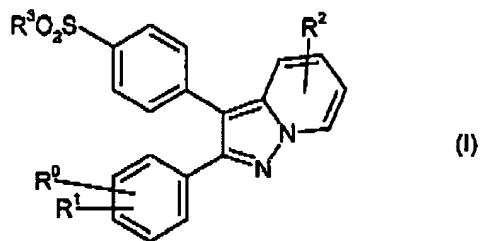


In the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I)



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ~~solvate, ester or amide, or salt or solvate of such ester or amide~~ thereof wherein

R^0 and R^1 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkoxy, and C_{1-6} alkoxy substituted by one or more fluorine atoms;

R^2 is selected from the group consisting of H, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkyl substituted by one or more fluorine atoms, C_{1-6} alkoxy, C_{1-6} hydroxyalkyl, SC_{1-6} alkyl, $C(O)H$, $C(O)C_{1-6}$ alkyl, C_{1-6} alkylsulphonyl, and C_{1-6} alkoxy substituted by one or more fluorine atoms; and

R^3 is C_{1-6} alkyl or NH_2 .

2. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^0 and R^1 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, halogen, C_{1-6} alkyl, and C_{1-6} alkoxy; R^2 is C_{1-3} alkyl substituted by one or more fluorine atoms; and R^3 is C_{1-3} alkyl or NH_2 .

3. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^0 and R^1 are independently selected from the group consisting of H, F, Cl, C_{1-3} alkyl, and C_{1-3} alkoxy; R^2 is C_{1-3} alkyl substituted by one or more fluorine atoms; and R^3 is methyl or NH_2 .

4. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^0 is selected from the group consisting of F, Cl, C_{1-3} alkyl and C_{1-3} alkoxy; R^1 is H; R^2 is C_{1-3} alkyl substituted by one or more fluorine atoms; and R^3 is methyl or NH_2 .

5. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein R^0 is at the 3- or 4- position of the phenyl ring; and R^2 is at the 6- position of the pyridine ring.

7 6. (Currently Amended) A compound selected from the group consisting of:
 4-[2-(3-fluoro-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;
 2-(3-fluoro-phenyl)-3-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
 4-[2-(4-ethoxy-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;
 4-[2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;
 2-(4-fluoro-phenyl)-3-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
 4-(2-phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl)-benzenesulfonamide;
 3-(4-methanesulfonyl-phenyl)-2-phenyl-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
 4-[2-(4-methyl-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-benzenesulfonamide;
 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ~~solvate, ester or amide, or salt or solvate of such ester or amide~~ thereof.

- 8 *17.* (Previously Presented) A compound selected from the group consisting of:

N-acetyl-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

N-acetyl-4-[2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

N-acetyl-4-[2-phenyl-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

sodium salt of N-acetyl-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-N-(2-methoxyacetyl)benzenesulfonamide;

4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-N-propionylbenzenesulfonamide;

4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-N-isobutyrylbenzenesulfonamide;

N-benzoyl-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

methyl 4-(((4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl)sulfonyl)amino)-4-oxobutanoate;

4-(((4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl)sulfonyl)amino)-4-oxobutanoic acid;

4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-N-pentanoylbenzenesulfonamide;

2-(((4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl)sulfonyl)amino)-2-oxoethyl acetate;

N-acetyl-4-[2-(4-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

N-(2-chloroacetyl)-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

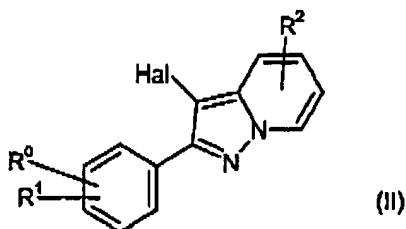
N-[2-(diethylamino)acetyl]-4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;

methyl {4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}sulfonylcarbamate; and
tert-butyl {4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-(trifluoromethyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]phenyl}sulfonylcarbamate.

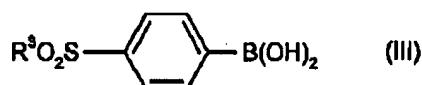
9. ~~8.~~ (Currently Amended) A compound selected from the group consisting of:
- 4-[6-chloro-2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
 - 6-chloro-2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
 - 4-[6-methyl-2-phenyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
 - 4-[2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-methyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
 - 4-[2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
 - 4-[2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]benzenesulfonamide;
 - 6-methyl-2-phenyl -3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
 - 2-(3-fluorophenyl)-6-methyl-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
 - 2-(3-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
 - 2-(4-ethoxyphenyl)-6-methyl-3-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridine;
- or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ~~solvate, ester or amide, or salt or solvate of such ester or amide~~ thereof.

12. ~~8.~~ (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) reacting a compound of formula (II)



or a protected derivative thereof, with a compound of formula (III)



or a protected derivative thereof to prepare a compound of formula (I);

and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, ester or amide, or salt or solvate of such ester or amide thereof.

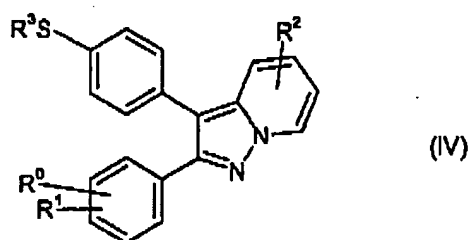
11. 10. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in claim 1 in admixture with one or more physiologically acceptable carriers or excipients.

11.-16. Canceled.

6. 17. (Previously Presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein R⁰ is selected from the group consisting of F, Cl, methyl and ethoxy; R¹ is H; R² is trifluoromethyl; and R³ is methyl or NH₂.

13. 18. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) where R³ represents C₁₋₄alkyl, reacting a compound of formula (IV)

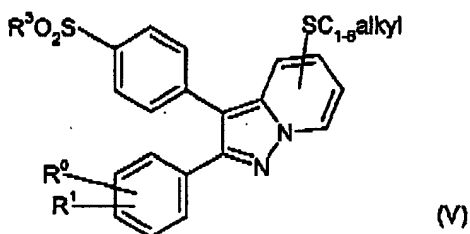


or a protected derivative thereof with an oxidising agent to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ~~solvate, ester or amide, or salt or solvate of such ester or amide~~ thereof.

14 19. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) where R² is C₁₋₆alkylsulphonyl, oxidising a compound of formula (V)

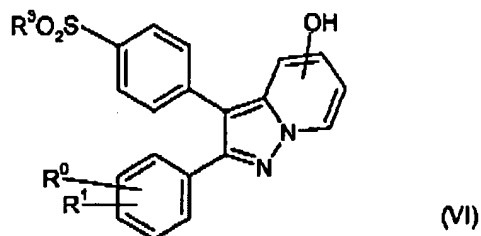


or a protected derivative thereof to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ~~solvate, ester or amide, or salt or solvate of such ester or amide~~ thereof.

15 20. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) where R^2 is C_{1-8} alkoxy substituted by one or more fluorine atoms, reacting a alcohol of formula (VI)

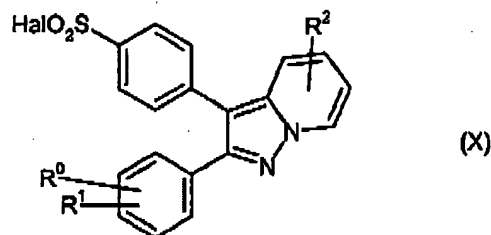


or a protected derivative thereof with a halofluoroalkane to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ~~solvate, ester or amide, or salt or solvate of such ester or amide~~ thereof.

16-21. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) where R^3 is NH_2 , reacting a compound of formula (X)



with a source of ammonia under conventional conditions to prepare a compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ~~solvate, ester or amide, or salt or solvate of such ester or amide~~ thereof.

17 ~~22.~~ (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) Interconverting a compound of formula (I) into another compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ~~solvate, ester or amide, or salt or solvate of such ester or amide~~ thereof.

18 ~~23.~~ (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound as claimed in claim 1, said process comprising the steps of:

(A) deprotecting a protected derivative of compound of formula (I); and

(B) optionally converting the compound of formula (I) to a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ~~solvate, ester or amide, or salt or solvate of such ester or amide~~ thereof.

24. Canceled.

25. Canceled.

19 ~~26.~~ (Previously Presented) A method for the treatment of a human subject suffering from a condition or disease selected from the group consisting of pain, fever and inflammation, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.

27. Canceled.

20 ~~28.~~ (Previously Presented) A method for the treatment of a human subject suffering from pain, said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1.

21 ~~29.~~ (Currently Amended) ¹⁹ The A method of claim 26 wherein for the ~~treatment of a human subject is suffering from the pain or inflammation of~~

arthritis, ~~said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of formula (I) as claimed in claim 1.~~

30. – 34. Canceled.

10 35. (Previously Presented) 4-[2-(3-fluoro-phenyl)-6-trifluoromethyl-pyrazolo[1,5-a]pyridin-3-yl]-benzenesulfonamide.

22 36. (Currently Amended) ¹⁹ The A method of claim 26 wherein for the treatment of a human subject is suffering from the pain or inflammation of lower back pain, ~~said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.~~

23 37. (Currently Amended) ¹⁹ The A method of claim 26 wherein for the treatment of a human subject is suffering from the pain or inflammation of neck pain, ~~said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.~~

24 38. (Currently Amended) ¹⁹ The A method of claim 26 wherein for the treatment of a human subject is suffering from the pain or inflammation of rheumatoid arthritis, ~~said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.~~

25 39. (Currently Amended) ¹⁹ The A method of claim 26 wherein for the treatment of a human subject is suffering from the pain or inflammation of osteoarthritis, ~~said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.~~

26 40. (Currently Amended) ¹⁹ The A method of claim 26 wherein for the treatment of a human subject is suffering from the pain, fever, or inflammation of dysmenorrhoea, ~~said method comprising administering an effective amount of a compound as claimed in claim 1.~~